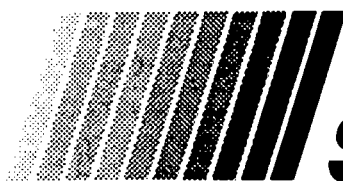




An EPA Update on Activities at  
the Arkwood Inc. Superfund Site  
Omaha, Arkansas



# Arkwood Inc. **SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE**

July 18, 1996

## *Early Completion of Soil Remedy*

### *Recent Activities*

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology (ADPCE), and the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) have completed cleanup of soils and sludges at this inactive wood treating site two years ahead of the Consent Decree (CD) schedule. In order to optimize the design as well as the implementation of the soils remedy, the Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA) activities outlined in the September 1992 CD were completed in two phases. The phased approach allowed remedial activities to be started one year ahead of the original RD/RA schedule provided in the CD. Implementation of the phased RD/RA project also provided information which helped determine that the volume of affected fines was much less than that estimated in the Record of Decision (ROD) (3,500 cubic yards as opposed to 7,000 cubic yards), prior to the completion of the Remedial Design for Phase II. This information was used to plan and complete an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) on June 14, 1995, which changed one

aspect of the Soils Remedy. Rather than constructing an onsite incinerator, the small volume of fines (and other debris) could be shipped off-site for incineration and disposal. The ESD provided resource savings for EPA and the PRP in completing the Soils Remedy two years ahead of the Consent Decree schedule, on December 1, 1995.

The PRP completed a Draft Close Out Report in January 1996 which documented all remedial activities conducted onsite. EPA conditionally approved this report in May 1996. EPA finalized an in-house "Preliminary Close Out Report" on June 28, 1996.

### *What Happens Next*

The only remedial activity left to be completed includes monitoring for pentachlorophenol (PCP) in area creeks and possibly implementation of the Groundwater Contingency Remedy, if natural attenuation does not occur, as specified in the 1990 ROD and CD. Further construction is not anticipated since PCP concentrations should continue to drop following the source removal. EPA would like to delete the Main Site Area (New Cricket Spring

### *This Site Update Will Tell You About:*

- \* Soil Remedy Completion.
- \* Background of the site.
- \* How to find out more about the Arkwood Inc. Superfund site.

Area not included) from the Superfund List in the near future.

### *Background Information*

The Arkwood, Inc. Superfund Site (Arkwood Site, or the Site) is located west of U.S. Highway 65, one-half mile southwest of Omaha, Boone County, Arkansas. The 15 acre Arkwood Site is located in an excavated area about 1,000 feet west of U.S. Highway 65, north of Cricket Road. The Site consisted of a millwork shop, a wood-treating plant that used creosote and PCP in its process, and a yard for storing treated wood products prior to sale.

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The plant site was developed in the 1950's when a railroad company excavated about 40 to 50 feet below natural grade to obtain fill dirt for constructing a railroad embankment. Arkwood, Inc., began wood-treating operations at the Site in the early 1960's. In 1973, the site owner leased the wood-treating facility to Mass Merchandisers, Inc. (MMI), formerly known as McKesson Services and currently known as Millbrook Distribution Services (Millbrook). The facility continued to operate until June 1984, at which time MMI sold or removed its inventory and process materials. In January 1985, MMI's lease expired and was not renewed. The owner dismantled the plant in 1986.

During its 20-plus years of operation, the plant generated an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 pounds of waste per year. Wastes from plant operations were reportedly dumped into a sinkhole at the treatment plant from the beginning of operations until 1970. The sinkhole was later sealed. In addition, waste oils were placed in a ditch adjacent to the railroad until approximately 1974, when MMI began using a chemical recovery system. Other wastes included liquids used to wash the treatment plant floor and equipment. These waste liquids were accumulated in a tank and then spread over the wood storage yard to control dust.

ADPC&E initially received a complaint about the Site in 1981. Preliminary investigations revealed detectable levels of PCP in area groundwater. In 1985, EPA

proposed that the Site be added to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Federal Superfund sites. The Site was formally added to the NPL on March 31, 1989.

With EPA oversight, MMI conducted a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to investigate possible remedies for the Site. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site was finalized on September 28, 1990 and documented that the principle threat from the Site was direct contact with soils contaminated above health based levels. In addition, the 1990 ROD stated that these soils posed a long term threat to groundwater. The low level threat from the Site was identified as direct contact with soils contaminated below health based levels and direct contact with New Cricket Spring. New Cricket Spring contained concentrations of PCP above the Arkansas Water Quality Standard.

The 1990 ROD specified that all sludges and affected soils would be excavated, pre-treated onsite, and then incinerated onsite. Affected soils were defined as those soils containing contaminants greater than the clean up goals. Clean up goals included the following: 300 mg/kg PCP, 6 mg/kg benzo-(a)-pyrene equivalents (BAPE), and 20 µg/kg tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin equivalents (TCDD). In addition, the 1990 ROD specified that New Cricket Spring would be monitored for two years following completion of the Soils Remedy. If the

concentration of PCP in New Cricket Spring does not meet the Arkansas Water Quality Standard via natural attenuation at the end of this two year monitoring period, a pump and treat system for the Spring would be required to meet the State standard (Groundwater Contingency Remedy, pp 65-67 of the ROD).

The pre-treatment step was anticipated to produce a "coarse" soils fraction separate from soil "fines." The 1990 ROD provided that the coarse material be tested and if clean up goals were met, the material could be backfilled onsite. The 1990 ROD stipulated that those coarse materials not meeting the clean up goals would be incinerated along with the fines. Based upon information generated in the RI/FS, the 1990 ROD estimated that affected soils totaled about 20,000 cubic yards to an approximate depth of one to two feet on the main area of the Site, and four to five feet in the railroad ditch area. The 1990 ROD estimated that sludges in the railroad ditch area and material in the sinkhole totaled 425 cubic yards.

On April 8, 1991, EPA and MMI signed an agreement, whereby MMI would design and implement the remedy selected in the 1990 ROD. This agreement, the Consent Decree (CD), contained a detailed Scope of Work (SOW) for all remedial activities. Following a public comment period, the CD was entered by the Court on September 25, 1992 to allow MMI to implement the remedy as specified in the ROD.

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## ***Additional Information***

If you have questions about the activities at the Arkwood Superfund Site, please contact:

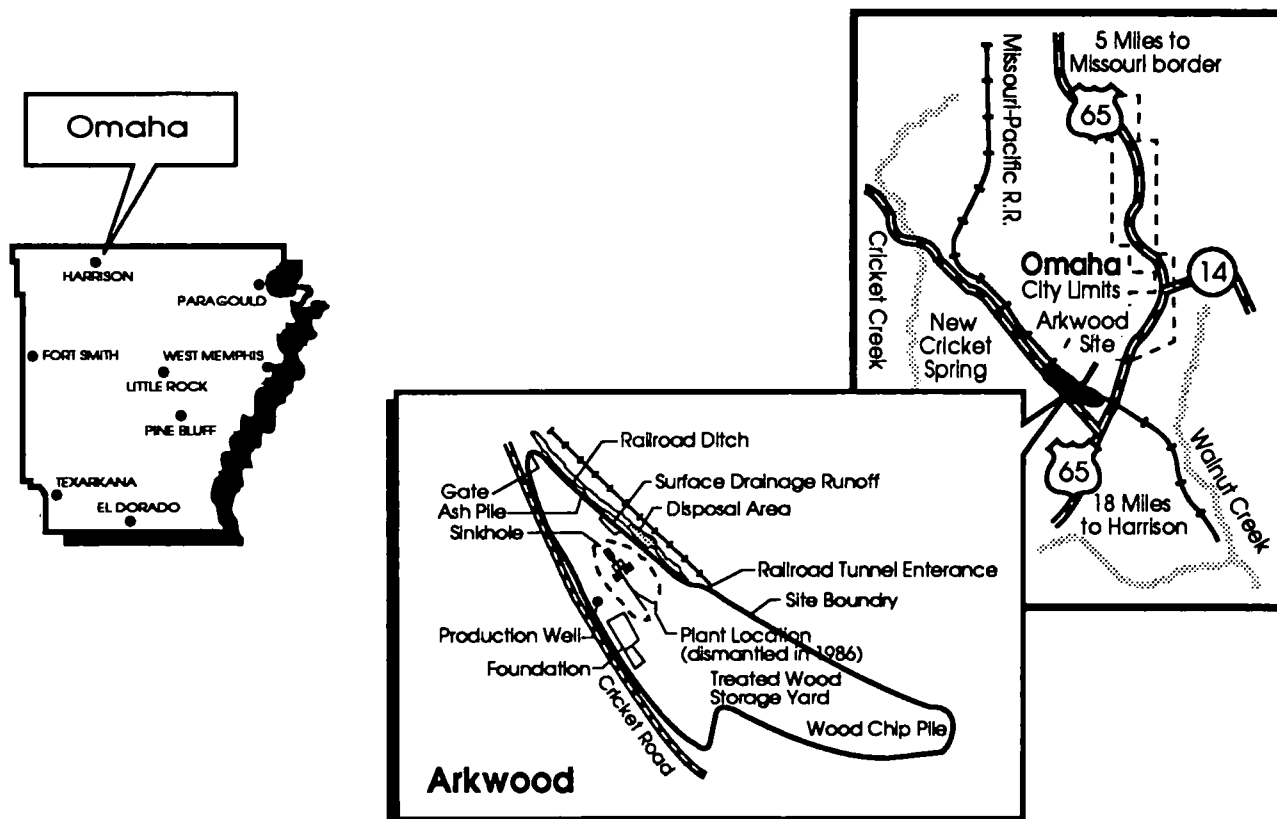
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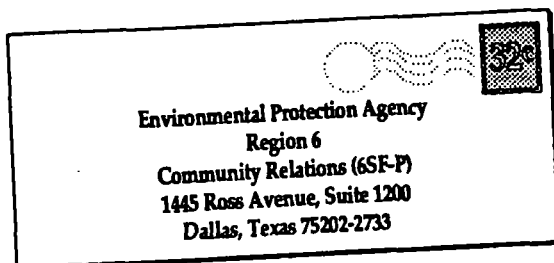
**Cynthia Kaleri**  
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***Questions from the media should be directed to : EPA Region 6 Office of External Affairs at (214) 665-2200***

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A mailing list has been developed for the Arkwood Inc. Superfund Site. If you did not receive this fact sheet by mail and wish to be placed on the site mailing list, please fill out, clip, and mail this coupon to:



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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